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## 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

*Port Vila, Vanuatu, 10 to 12 February 2020*

### CTC 7 – Doc 14

### Applications for 2020 CNCP Status

*Secretariat*

SPRFMO has four active Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) to date: Republic of Colombia, Curaçao, Republic of Liberia, and Republic of Panama.

In September 2019, following the request of the Commission in response to the advice from the Performance Review Panel ([COMM7-Report Annex 8, Section 6.2](#)), the SPRFMO Commission Chairperson, supported by the Secretariat, contacted the four current CNCPs to encourage them to become full Members of the SPRFMO Commission, stating the benefits of doing so (Ref: DC131-2019, DC132-2019, DC133-2019, DC134-2019).

In October 2019, two months before the deadline for CNCP applications and renewal requests, the Secretariat contacted those four CNCPs again this time with a reminder of the invitation to become full Members of the SPRFMO Commission or to renew their current CNCP status (Ref: DC142-2019, DC143-2019, DC144-2019 and DC 145-2019).

In addition to the four above mentioned States, pursuant to Decision 2-2018 ([Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties](#)) Paragraph 1, in October 2019, the Secretariat contacted the Republic of Angola (Ref: DC146-2019) and invited them to become a Contracting Party of the Convention or to attain CNCP status with SPRFMO, considering their interest in the fisheries occurring in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

The Secretariat received three CNCP status renewal requests, which are contained in the annexes to this document as follows:

- Annex 1. Panama, received on 6 November 2019
- Annex 2. Liberia, received on 28 November 2019
- Annex 3. Curaçao, received on 1 December 2019

The Secretariat also received a notification from Colombia advising the Executive Secretary of its intention to not renew CNCP status in 2020. The notification letter is contained in Annex 4:

- Annex 4. Colombia, received on 24 December 2019

The Secretariat contacted Colombia (Ref: DC206-2019) inviting them to elaborate on the reasons for taking this step (Annex 5).

## DESPACHO DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN GENERAL

Panamá, October 31, 2019

**AG-0948-19**

**Ref: SPRFMO Invitation to become a Contracting Party**

Honorable Dr. Rodriguez:

In response of your letter DC145-2019 inviting to the Republic of Panama to become a Contracting Party to the Convention, or to renew our status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), pursuant to SPRFMO Decision 2-2018 Rules for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, we want to inform you that we are in the process to adopt the Convention Text. As soon as we receive confirmation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we will initiate the process to contact the depositary in order to be part as Member of the Commission.

For now, we inform our intention to request the renew our participation in the SPRFMO as Cooperating non Contracting Party, in collaborating with the Convention.

The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) and the Government of Panama are committed to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. We believe that IUU fishing activities is one of the most serious threats facing the biodiversity of the world's oceans. We are committed to comply with the regulations established in the SPRFMO.

The reason to seek the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party is because we have a fleet that operate in the Convention Area for fishing support fishing activities.

We express our ... page 2

Honorable Doctor  
**SEBASTIAN RODRÍGUEZ**  
Executive Secretary  
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)  
Wellington, New Zealand

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Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá  
AG-0948-19

We express our commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and ensure that Panamanian vessels comply with the provisions of the Convention, conservation and management adopted by the Commission.

Also, we inform the explicit commitment to accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission procedures on high seas boarding and inspection. Also, the commitment to make the voluntary financial contributions established by the Commission in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention and particularly in accordance with paragraph 4.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Commission.

Full data on our historical fisheries decision 2-2018 Rules for CNCPs in the Convention Area, including nominal catches, number / Type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas will be provided to the Commission in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission.

Finally, Panama will provide all pending issues identified during the last meeting of the Commission and any other information necessary to demonstrate our commitment with the Commission.

Any additional information required by the Commission, will be provided to the SPRFMO Secretariat by ARAP.

Best regards,

  
**FLOR TORRIJOS**  
Administradora General

  
FT/RD/iv



Republic of Liberia  
**NATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (NaFAA)**

P. O. Box 1384  
 Bushrod Island, Monrovia, Liberia



Office of the Director General

Email: emma.glassco@liberianfisheries.net / metiehemma@yahoo.com

**RL/NaFAA/DG/L-495/'19**

November 27, 2019

Attn: Dr. Sebastian Rodriguez

**Executive Secretary**

Southern Pacific Regional Management Fisheries Organization (SPRFMO)

P.O. Box 3797

Wellington 6140, New Zealand

**RE: COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS**

Dear Dr. Rodriguez:

The purpose of this letter is to request Liberia's continued participation as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of the SPRFMO. Liberia remains committed to its obligation as a CNCP and the implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by SPRFMO.

In accordance with provisions set out in Decision 2-2018 (*Rules for Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties*), Liberia is submitting the following information in support of its request:

**1. Reason for seeking renewal of CNCP status:**

Liberia's seeks continued status as a CNCP because Liberia has a number of carrier vessels in the international registry that are participating in transshipment activities in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

**2. Commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of CMMs adopted by the Commission and to ensure that vessels flying its flag..., to the greatest extent possible, its nationals, comply with the provisions of the Convention and CMMs adopted by the Commission:**

Liberia commits to cooperate fully in the implementation of CMMs adopted by the Commission and will continue to ensure that its vessels comply with CMMs including, but not limited to:

- CMM 10-2019 Establishment of a Compliance and Monitoring Scheme...,
- CMM 07-2019 Minimum Standards of Inspection in Port,
- CMM 05-2019 Establishment of the Commission Record of Vessels Authorized to Fish,
- CMM 04-2019 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out IUU Activities,
- CMM 01-2019 Trachurus murphyi,
- CMM 12-2018 Regulation of Transshipment and other Transfer Activities,
- CMM 06-2018 Establishment of the Vessel Monitoring System,
- CMM 02-2018 Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data,

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CMM 11-2017 Boarding and Inspection Procedures in the SPRFMO Convention Area, etc.

**3. An explicit commitment to accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection; full data on its historical fisheries in the Convention Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;**

Liberia commits to accepting high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on boarding and inspections in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Liberia has provided for previous years, and will continue to provide to the Secretariat full and complete data on historical transshipment information, including names of vessels, species and total quantities transshipped.

**4. All the data and information members of the Commission are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission:**

Liberia has consistently submitted transshipment data and other information members are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission.

**5. A statement on how any compliance issues previously identified by the Commission have been addressed:**

**6.**

Please refer to the 2017 case of the ZHONG XIANG, which was provided to the Secretariat previously.

**7. Any further relevant information as determined by the Commission:**

Liberia will provide relevant information as determined by the Commission.

**8. A statement of intent to make voluntary financial contributions commensurate...pursuant to the scheme of contributions established by the Commission in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention and particularly in accordance with paragraph 4.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Commission:**

Liberia intends to make voluntary financial contributions commensurate with what would be assessed and pursuant to the scheme of contributions established by the Commission in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Convention and particularly in accordance with paragraph 4.7 of the of the Financial Regulations of the Commission.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

  
Emma Metieh Glassco  
Director-General



MINISTER OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To:  
SPRFMO Secretariat  
**Att.: Dr. Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro**  
Executive Secretary  
Level 26 Plimmer Towers  
Wellington 6011  
New Zealand

[srodriguez@sprfmo.int](mailto:srodriguez@sprfmo.int)  
[secretariat@sprfmo.int](mailto:secretariat@sprfmo.int)

Date:  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Contact person:  
Ramon Chong  
Stephen Mambi (Secretary Int'l  
Fisheries Commission)

E-mail address:  
[ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw](mailto:ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw)  
[stephen.mambi@gobiernu.cw](mailto:stephen.mambi@gobiernu.cw)

Your letter of:

Your reference:

Our number:

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Topic:  
**Request to Renew CNCP Status**

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Dear Dr. Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro,

We would like to express to the distinguished members of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), Curaçao's interest to renew its status as Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of your Organization.

It is our objective as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to continue to develop the international fisheries which could contribute to the economic development of Curaçao. Until now the fisheries sector contributes to less than 1% of Curaçao's GDP. The artisanal fishery sector delivers a minor contribution to the local markets based on fish caught within its territorial and EEZ waters. The development of the high seas pelagic fisheries industry is steadfastly developing into an important sector for Curaçao, not only as a food source, but also in providing employment and important socio-economic benefits for our people.

In the meantime, Curaçao has carried for two year the status of CNCP of the SPRFMO, with the objective to facilitate trade, and in particular the transport of fish caught in the South Pacific Seas. We hope to have fulfilled our compliance duties and the payment of the corresponding annual fee.

Curaçao is a full member of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) since the year 20014. Curaçao has also acquired the status of CNCP in the NEAFC, and recently, this CNCP status has been renewed.



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The industrial tuna fleet is the main fishery income generator, contributing to the State budget through the issuance of fishing licenses and catch certificates to companies fishing tuna in the high seas located nearby the West African coast in the Atlantic Ocean. Currently five Curaçao registered purse seiners are fishing in the ICCAT area. For the first time this year, two fishing vessels operating in two West African States' EEZ has also contributed to the State revenues. Another six carrier vessels from the company Seatrade are also licensed to operate in the RFMO areas of which Curacao is a member state. Last year, based on the catches of mentioned fleet, Curaçao exported almost 35.000 tons of tuna mainly to Europe.

For Curaçao as a SIDS, it becomes essential to continue to develop its fisheries industry, in order to mitigate its vulnerable open economy. This industry has proven to be able to provide jobs to locals and to be less susceptible for the generation of state revenues. In addition, it possesses the capacity to spurs the international generated knowledge for the benefit of the development of the local fishery sector.

Furthermore, with respect to paragraph 3 of Decision 2-2018 of the SPRFMO, we are fully committed to cooperate in the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by your Organization and to ensure that fishing vessels flying our flag and fishing in the Convention Area comply with the resolutions and provisions adopted by your Organization. We are explicitly committed to accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection, once they have been adopted, and to report, comply, and deliver full fisheries data relevant to the Convention Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas.

Furthermore, we are committed to deliver all the data and information, parties of your Organization are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by your Organization and any further relevant information as determined by your Organization. Please be informed that Curaçao possess a full fledge Fishing and Monitoring Center which has been approved by the DG MARE of the European Union, which at this moment already comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements of ICCAT and FAO.

Not only are we willing to make a voluntary financial contribution, commensurate with what would be assessed if we were a member, but we do hope that in the meantime, you did receive our contribution of the current year, otherwise it is on its way.



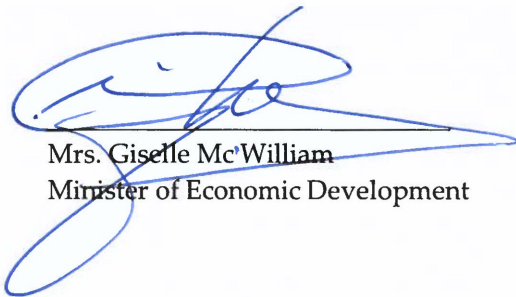
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Finally I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate, to the SPRFMO our expressions of highest esteem and consideration, in the hope that the SPRFMO members will review our endeavor to fully cooperate with your Organization and for the SPRFMO to consider favorably our request.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs. Giselle McWilliam  
Minister of Economic Development





**S-GAE-19-050551**

Bogotá, D.C., 17 de Diciembre de 2019

Doctor  
SEBASTIÁN RODRÍGUEZ ALFARO  
Executive Secretary  
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization  
Wellington

Reference: Status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party - Colombia

Dear Mr Executive Secretary,

Concerning the invitation to renew the status of the Republic of Colombia as a “Cooperating non-Contracting Party” of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management (SPFRMO), I would like to state that Colombia will not be submitting a request for the year 2020.

I wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the officers of the Secretariat and to the Commission members for the support provided during the last few years. We convey our compliments to the Commission and we will be very attentive of future developments.

Yours sincerely,

**CAROLINA DIAZ ACOSTA**  
Directora de Asuntos Económicos, Sociales y Ambientales

ALEJANDRO JARAMILLO GOMEZ / Paola Moreno Latorre /

Ref: DC206-2019  
Wellington, 25 December 2019

**To: Ms Carolina Díaz Acosta**  
Directora de Asuntos Económicos, Sociales y Ambientales  
Cancillería de Colombia  
Calle 10 N° 5 - 51 Palacio de San Carlos  
Bogotá DC,  
República de Colombia

By email: [carolina.diaz@cancilleria.gov.co](mailto:carolina.diaz@cancilleria.gov.co)

**Subject:** Status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) - Colombia

Dear Ms Díaz,

I am writing concerning your official document S-GAE-19-050551 received on 24 December 2019 confirming that the Republic of Colombia will not be submitting a request to renew its CNCP status.

This Secretariat was not expecting this step, particularly considering how Colombia has improved its compliance status within the Organisation, the voluntary contributions provided and the close intersessional follow up on SPRFMO developments.

It would be very beneficial if your Administration could further elaborate on the reasons for taking this step, either through an official document or/and hopefully with the participation of Colombia, as current CNCP, in the next SPRFMO Compliance and Technical Committee ([CTC7](#)) and SPRFMO Commission meeting ([COMM8](#)) to be held in Port Vila Vanuatu, from 10 February 2020.

Although I truly regret seeing Colombia leaving the Organisation, I hope that there will be future opportunities for collaboration.

Sincerely yours,



**Dr. Sebastián Rodríguez Alfaro**  
Executive Secretary